

November 4, 2009

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that St. Charles Parish, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and the Terrebonne Parish School District will receive reimbursement grants totaling \$4,096,521.64 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grants reimburse the parishes for costs incurred from Hurricane Gustav. November 4, 2009

WASHINGTON-Congressman Charlie Melancon (LA-03) announced today that St. Charles Parish, St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office and the Terrebonne Parish School District will receive reimbursement grants totaling \$4,096,521.64 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The grants reimburse the parishes for costs incurred from Hurricane Gustav.

"As Hurricane Gustav was bearing down on south Louisiana, the swift actions taken by Terrebonne Parish and St. Charles Parish officials helped keep people safe during and after the storm," Rep. Melancon said. "These federal grants will help them recover some of the costs from Hurricane Gustav, but the damage to their budgets from last year's storms is still significant. I will continue pushing for federal dollars to cover 100 percent of these costs so Louisiana can dedicate our resources to other needs."

Terrebonne School Board Superintendent Philip Martin said, **"At the end of the day, we are very pleased and thankful for these funds. We've had a lot of expenses getting back up and running from Hurricane Gustav. When you have a natural disaster, no one can wave a magic wand to make it as though it never happened. The FEMA representatives that assisted us were extremely helpful and knowledgeable. Although the process is a long one, there was assistance all along the way. This grant will relieve some of our financial concerns."**

St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne said, **"Although it took more than a year to get reimbursement from FEMA, we are relieved to finally get these funds. We appreciate Charlie Melancon fighting for us and making sure our emergency preparedness efforts are reimbursed and supported."**

The following grants were announced today:

- **\$1,003,067.08 to St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office for emergency operations.** As Hurricane Gustav approached Louisiana, the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office had its personnel operate 24-hour emergency operations and 911 centers. Deputies also escorted special needs patients out of the parish and manned traffic control points.
- **\$2,054,421.42 to St. Charles Parish for emergency preparation work.** The parish performed emergency protective measures before, during and after Hurricane Gustav to protect the public's health and safety and to prevent further damage to public property.
- **\$1,039,033.14 to Terrebonne Parish School Board for temporary relocation**

expenses. Hurricane Gustav destroyed school room space, forcing a temporary relocation. This grant reimburses the school board for those costs.

Congressman Melancon has worked in Congress to reduce the financial burden on Louisiana's parish governments, sheriff's offices, school boards, and other public entities for Hurricane Gustav and Ike recovery projects. [At his request](#) , in June Congress [reduced or eliminated](#) the local cost share for Hurricane Ike recovery projects in Louisiana.

This change could save the state and local governments up to \$25 million, according to estimates by the Louisiana Governor's Office on Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Congressman Melancon continues to work to eliminate the local cost share for Louisiana's Hurricane Gustav recovery projects, such as those announced today, and make them 100% federally-funded.

After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Congressman Melancon also worked to pass legislation [w](#)
[aiving 100%](#) of the local cost share requirement for disaster recovery projects in Louisiana. Before the local cost share was waved, many of the estimated 23,000 disaster recovery projects in Louisiana had been put on hold because local governments did not have the resources to provide the match.

#